

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1742

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008

INDIANS LANGUISHING IN PAKISTANI JAILS

Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Kumar Shri Shailendra;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any committee to negotiate with Pakistani Government for release of the Indians languishing in Pakistani jails;
- (b) if so, the names of members of the said committee;
- (c) the number of sittings of the committee held so far;
- (d) the number of Indians released from Pakistani jails on the recommendation of the said committee; and
- (e) the names of the States to which the released persons belong to?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a) During the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Pakistan on 13-14 January 2007, it was decided to establish a Committee on prisoners comprising retired judges of the superior judiciary to visit jails in the two countries and propose steps to ensure humane treatment and expedite release of prisoners who have completed their prison terms.
- (b) The members of the Committee are Justice (Retd) Mr. Nagendra Rai, Justice (Retd) Mr. Amarjeet Choudhary, Justice (Retd) Mr. A.S. Gill and Justice (Retd) Mr. M.A. Khan from the Indian side and Justice (Retd) Mr. Abdul Qadeer Chaudhary, Justice (Retd) Mr. Fazal Karim, Justice (Retd) Mr. Nasir Aslam Zahid, and Justice (Retd) Mr. Mian Muhammad Ajmal from the Pakistan side.
- (c) The Committee has to-date met thrice on 26-27 February 2008, 9-14 June 2008 and 18-23 August 2008.
- (d) & (e) Since February 2008, 08 prisoners and 357 fishermen have been released by Pakistan; State wise lists of Indians in Pakistan jails are not maintained.